



PLAY LEARN EXPLORE PROTECT YOUTH RENEW



## "BACKCOUNTRY CACHE"

A Newsletter for Members of CMC Backpacking Section

October 2020

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### THE MAKING OF A BACKPACKING COMMUNITY

John Walters, Chair BPX

Why do people join CMC? Surveys find three reasons: to explore nature, pursue fitness, and make friends. Maybe this explains why 1600 members joined BPX in our first year. Backpacking takes us deeper into nature, requires better fitness than day hikes, and nothing makes friends faster than camping together in the wilderness.

Actually, 1600 BPX members only expressed an interest in backpacking. To earn your loyalty, BPX must create experiences that exceed your expectations. To that end, BPX is creating and supporting a backpacking community. A thriving community requires good leadership and excellent results.

**Community** means common interests, mutual respect, support, sharing, learning from each other, and giving back. Community requires commitment.

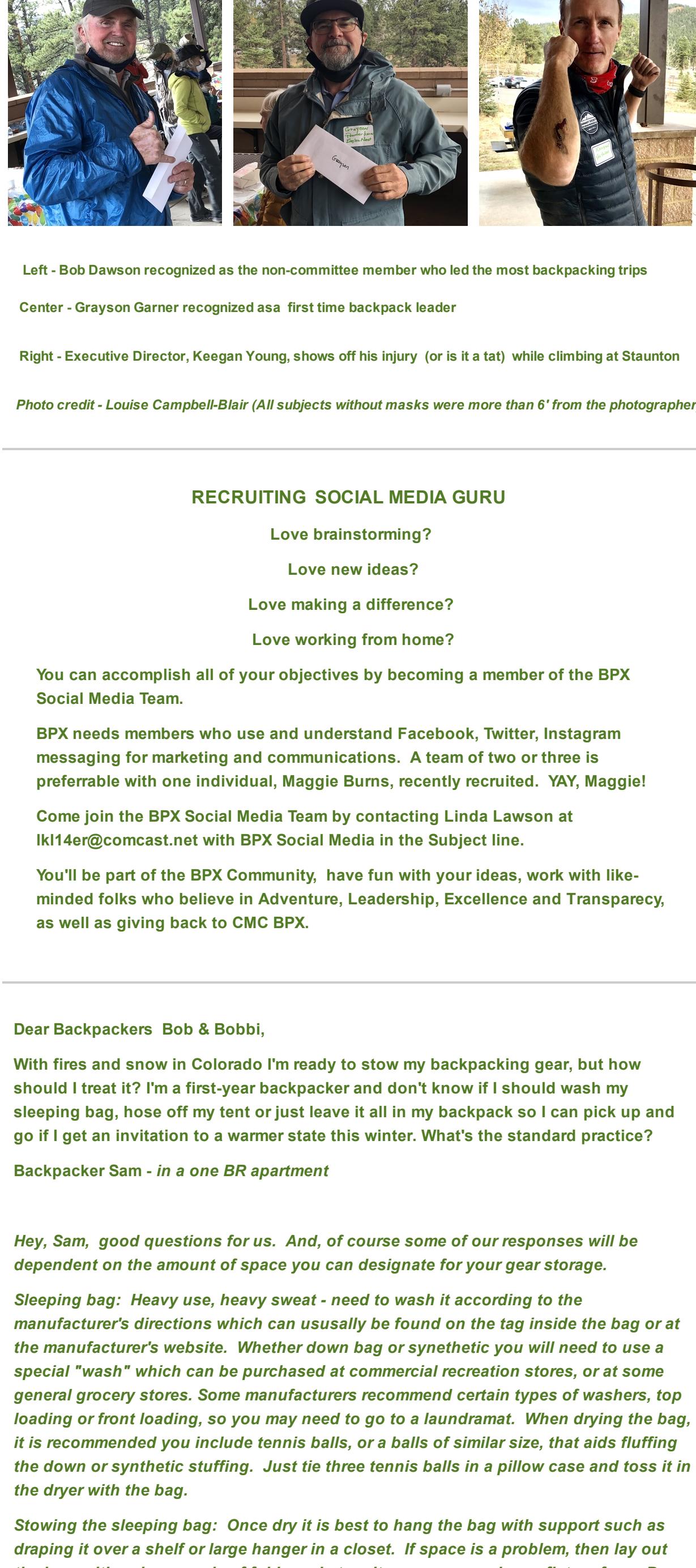
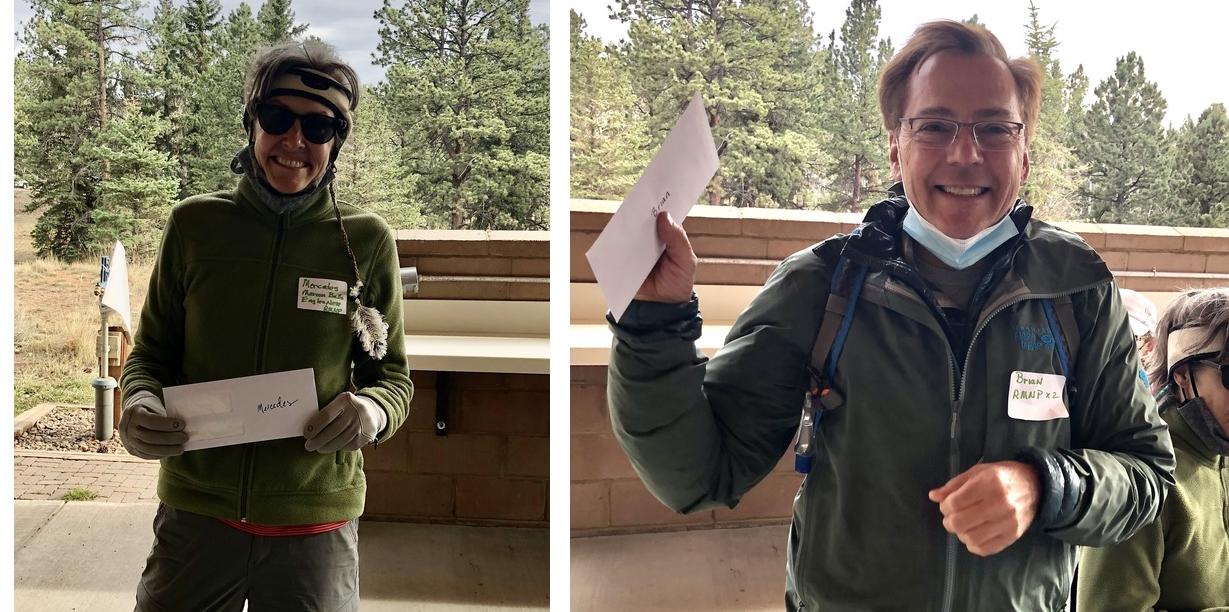
Leadership facilitates community, not only by providing memorable backpacking experiences, but also by planning trips, developing trip leaders, and creating educational and social opportunities.

Excellence requires high standards and reliable execution to give members the safe and fun rewards they seek. Excellence gives everyone the satisfaction of being part of something more than we can be alone. Excellence makes giving back a reward itself, when the community appreciates one's contributions.

**Community, Leadership and Excellence** are three of the five Core Values guiding every decision BPX makes. These values will make us proud to be members of a backpacking community

### WIGWAM TRAIL - LOST CREEK WILDERNESS

#### LAST BACKPACK OF THE SEASON



Upper left - Wigwam campsite; John Walters, Leader, in foreground and Amanda Podoll

Upper right - Beaver Pond

Center - BPXers (left to right) Linda Lawson, Amanda Podoll, Brad Cotten, Bob Legrand, Annie Legrand

Lower left - Beaver Dam

Lower Right - Great Tree 3' 9" in diameter found off the trail by Bob Legrand who has been backpacking for four decades and is a new BPX Leader

Photo credits: Annie Legrand, JC Cohen, Dan Schweising



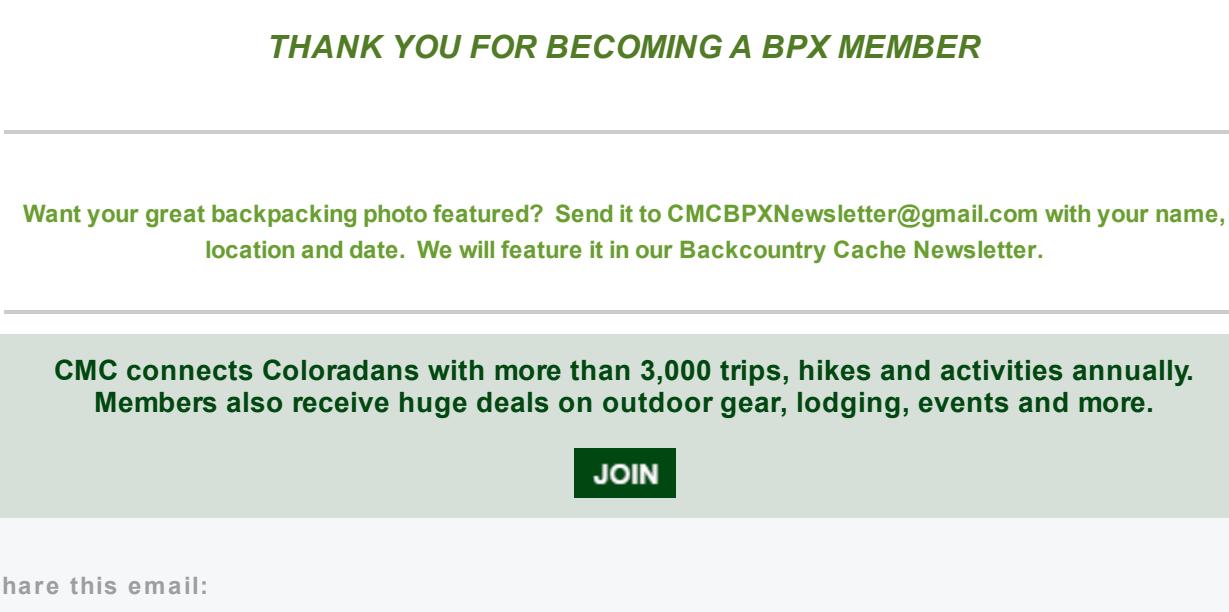
Upper Left - Cheryl Bleakly, Leila Murphy, Elizabeth Motley, Linda Lawson - give a masked toast to BPX

Upper Center - Sandy Heise, Uwe Sartori (Trip Leader Coordinator), Nancy Woodson meet each other mask to mask

Upper Right - John Walters, Chair, receives crystal award for BPX Vision and Leadership

Lower Left and Right - Mercedes Aponte and Brian Burd receive recognition and reward as first time backpack leaders

Photo credit - Louise Campbell-Blair



Left - Bob Dawson recognized as the non-commitee member who led the most backpacking trips

Center - Grayson Garner recognized as a first time backpack leader

Right - Executive Director, Keegan Young, shows off his injury (or is it a tat) while climbing at Staunton

Photo credit - Louise Campbell-Blair (All subjects without masks were more than 6' from the photographer)

### RECRUITING SOCIAL MEDIA GURU

Love brainstorming?

Love new ideas?

Love making a difference?

Love working from home?

You can accomplish all of your objectives by becoming a member of the BPX Social Media Team.

BPX needs for marketing and communications Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, messaging with marketing individual Maggie Burns recently recruited. YAY, Maggie!

Come join the BPX Social Media Team by contacting Linda Lawson at lkl144er@comcast.net with BPX Social Media in the Subject line.

You'll be part of the BPX Community, have fun with your ideas, work with like-minded folks who believe in Adventure, Leadership, Excellence and Transparency, as well as giving back to CMC BPX.

Dear Backpackers Bob & Bobbi, I'm ready to stow my backpacking gear, but how should I treat it? I'm a first-timer backpacker and don't know what I should wash my sleeping bag, hose off my tent or just leave it all winter. What's the standard practice?

Backpacker Sam - in a one BPX apartment

Hey, Sam, good questions for us. And, of course design some of your gear storage dependent on the amount of space you have available. For gear storage.

Manufacturers' directions, which can usually be found on the tag inside the bag or at the manufacturer's website. Whether down bag or synthetic you will need to use a special "wash" which can be purchased at commercial recreation stores, or at some general grocery stores. Some manufacturers recommend certain types of washers, top loading or front loading, so you may need to go to a laundromat. When drying the bag, it is recommended you include tennis balls, or a ball of similar size, that aids fluffing the down with synthetic stuffing. Just tie three tennis balls in a pillow case and toss it in the dryer with the bag.

Drying the sleeping bag: Once dry it is best to hang the bag with support such as draping it over a shelf or large object. If space is limited, then lay out the bag with only a couple of folds and store it. Uncompressed is a flat surface. Be certain to store the compression sack with the bag for possible quick get away to a warmer climate.

If the bag has not been heavily used, air it out and store as alternatives described above.

Dry: Best practice is to set it up outside, when weather warms, and hose it off. Let it dry and repeat its process in its travel bag. Be certain to remove any sap, dirt, mud on the tent footprint or the fly. Also, this is a good time to inspect the tent and fly for any tears or holes and repair them prior to that backpacking trip to California.

Boots: Whether you will be using the boots this winter when climbing, snow shoeing or stowing them, it is best to clean the boots with a heat brush, removing dust and water and spray or gel specifically for leather. If the boot upper is Gore-tex go to their website for recommended water proofing products.

Videos: There are a variety of YouTube videos on these subjects to aid you stowing gear till next season.

See ya' on the trails,

Bob & Bobbi Backpacker

In the 108 years since its founding, the CMC has weathered some serious storms — two world wars, Spanish Flu, the Great Depression, the Cold War, and Hurricane Katrina. We've survived each of them because of our dedicated community.

Now we're in a new storm — the novel Coronavirus Pandemic. And we need your help. Will you help us weather this storm?

Support CMC

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/cmc>

Want your great backpacking photo feature? Send it to [CMCBPXNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:CMCBPXNewsletter@gmail.com) with your name, photo, location and date. We will feature it in our Backcountry Cache Newsletter.

CMC connects Coloradans with more than 3,000 trips, hikes and activities annually.

Members also receive huge deals on outdoor gear, lodging, events and more.

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